

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised in order to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments. Copies of the amended portions of the specification, and claim with changes marked therein are attached and entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Next, on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over the admission of prior art illustrated in Fig. 1 of the present application (AAPA) in view of Wolfges (DE 19907732). It is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by the amended claim, now clearly patentably distinguishes over the AAPA/Wolfges combination for the following reasons.

By the above amendment, claim 3 recites that "wear particles generated in the solenoid can be discharged through the lower through hole."

The prior art apparatus (**AAPA**), shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, includes a cover 106 provided with an upper through-hole 111. However, claim 3 requires upper and lower through-holes, . . . wherein an uppermost part of the upper through-hole is above or level with an uppermost part of the plunger compartment, and a lowermost part of the lower through-hole is below or level with a lowermost part of the plunger compartment such that air can be exhausted from the plunger compartment through the upper through-hole, and that wear particles generated in the solenoid can be discharged through the lower through-hole. Clearly, the single through-hole of AAPA does not meet the limitations of claim 3.

Wolfges is cited by the Examiner to teach a solenoid having a plunger and having a pair of through-holes on upper and lower portions thereof. However, the claim requires that the through-holes are provided in the cover, at very specific locations of the cover, for

very specific reasons. In particular, claim 3 requires, *inter alia*, that an uppermost part of the upper through-hole is above or level with an uppermost part of the plunger compartment. Claim 3 also recites that "a lowermost part of the lower through-hole is below or level with a lowermost part of the plunger compartment. Since the Wolfges reference clearly does not disclose these claimed features, it cannot be said that the Wolfges reference suggests the modification of the admitted prior art (AAPA) to contain these claimed features.

Clearly, the above-mentioned features of claim 3 are clearly not shown in either of AAPA or Wolfges. Since the collective teachings of the applied prior art do not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 3, it is submitted that claim 3 is clearly allowable.

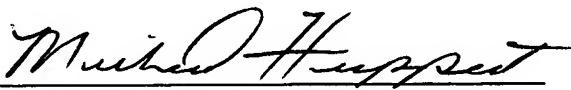
Further, it is noted that the claimed features are not merely matters of design choice but are features, unsuggested in the prior art, which serve the particular purposes of exhausting air from the plunger compartment (through the upper through-hole), and discharging wear particles generated in the solenoid (through the lower through-hole).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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